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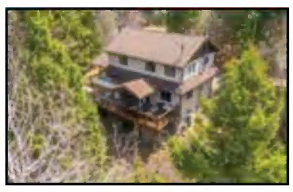

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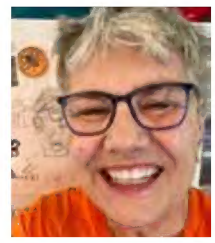
THOMAS: *Toutons*

HELLO. I'M Thom. Writing these editorials is going to be weird. I'm a very private guy. My twin sister, Reba, is the opposite. She likes sharing her poems, and being with people all the time. We both like riding our bikes, camping, and hanging out in the kitchen. I love when Gran comes over. She usually brings me *Jam Jams*, my favourite Newfoundland cookie. I've learned some 'down east' recipes, and made a few so far.

I love my family, and I'm glad they love me. I stutter a little, but I don't get laughed at, even by Oscar. He's nicer this year. Miss Fields somehow mostly stops him before he even dreams about bullying. He can still be a creep in the schoolyard. But I actually heard him say sorry the other day when somebody stood up to him.



DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

I love graphic novels. I want to sell my own series one day. There was once a lot of bedtime reading before Mom got sick. But she's better lately, so I hand her my comics to double check out loud and give me feedback. She's promised to send my very first finished book to a self-publishing company. We'll design every page online, use their editing tools, pay them, and they'll send back a shiny graphic novel that looks exactly like any real book. Inventing my own chatty characters is much easier than speaking up in class. But I'll still be myself anyway, even if Oscar laughs at my new streaky hair.

It was actually Gran who suggested I add some bright colour to my crazy mop. Since it's hard to comb, and I can't be bothered with the popular short styles, she streaked some drugstore yellow and red dye all through it. At first we laughed at the shock, but I loved it almost instantly, and my wavy bangs look awesome when I tug them out from under my beanie. I feel like I'm a character in one of my own drawings. I've noticed that one other Grade 6 boy has started dabbing a bit of neon blue into his own bangs.

I've also noticed that our teacher seems to be drawing instead of marking while we're doing our seat work. I wonder what kind of artist she is. I appreciate that she asks almost every day how I'm doing. It helps me feel better about Mom. Miss Fields asks all of us how we are. Even Oscar is cutting back his dumb answers. Just today, I overheard him say *I'm good, thanks. How are you?*

I tried making *toutons* for family dinner the other night. I'd watched Gran break raw bread dough into little lumps, then flatten them with her hands to fry in cooking oil. She doesn't use traditional pork fat, but we do put molasses and butter on them like true Newfoundlanders. Reba sometimes uses maple syrup and cinnamon instead.

Well, that's me in the corner. Silent Thom. Always watching, always thinking. Have a great day.

Author's note: Here's the latest in our alphabetical series, Dickens-style, introducing a fictional Central Ontario classroom which recognizes student individuality, diversity, similarity, and wide-open growing on the verge of their futures. It's also our effort to help celebrate devoted teachers everywhere. We invite all ages, but especially kids, to enjoy reading these chapters out loud. ***ROOM 10*** *will soon be available in picture book format. A similar series will follow this one. Stay tuned!*

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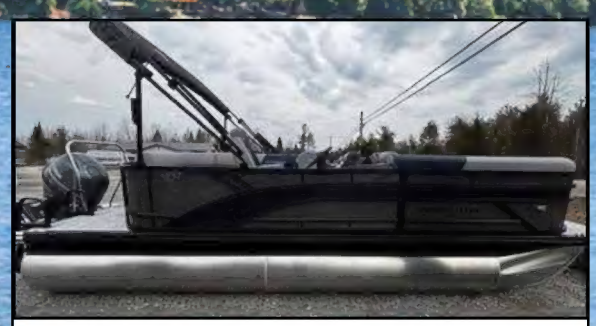

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Wade for it

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

THERE COMES a time in every angler's or dock owner's life when they must quietly ask themselves, "Did I have an accident or are my waders leaking?"

There is no good answer. Nor is there even a clear one.

Typically, you can ascertain what is going on by gauging the fluid's temperature inside your waders – unless of course you are wading in a hot tub. Then it gets tricky, particularly if you were uninvited.

I can honestly say that whenever the inside of my waders is damp, it signifies a leak. Often that leak occurs when I am startled and in bear country, however.

I only bring up the subject because this is the time of year – when the water is most frigid – when perfectly good waders transform themselves into the waders that you will only henceforth lend to a good friend.

How this metamorphosis occurs is something that has puzzled anglers and other rubber pant users for years. Everyone has their theories though.

Some say this deterioration happens naturally over time because of the sun and wear and tear. Some have suggested that the biggest structural failures in the seams always show up immediately after chili night. While others note a strong correlation between outfishing your buddy and the onset of pinhole leaks in areas that may or may not affect your fertility, depending on water temperature.

Are any of these theories correct? Who can really say for sure?

What I do know is that no matter what the cause, it looks awful when you take your waders off. And it's even worse when you forget that the front of your pants is wet at the confluence of your legs and then walk into the donut shop on the way home. On the plus side, this often gets you served quickly.

The real problem with leaky waders is that their owners never actually part with them. Instead, we tell ourselves year after year that we will patch the holes and they will be as good as new one day. These are bald-faced lies.

Even if we did make the effort, the chances of a repair working are astronomically small.

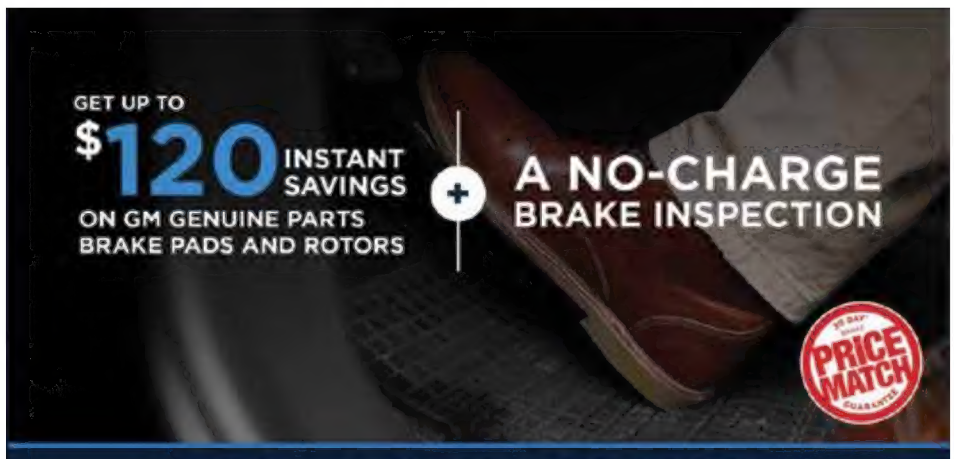
I once heard of an outdoorsman – a friend of a friend of a friend's cousin's boyfriend's acquaintance's uncle, twice removed – who, legend says, patched his waders successfully. Apparently, he had a pet unicorn too.

Otherwise, I don't know a single person who has succeeded in stemming the tide. This is surprising, considering there are a multitude of glues, patches, techniques, and magical spells that are said to facilitate this process.

When I was younger, I tried them all, and due in no small part to the exuberance of youth, I did so simultaneously. This unfortunate situation was further degraded by the fact that I was wearing the tattered waders at the time – and, as a result of liberal applications and hairy legs, it turned out for the remainder of that spring as well.

Now, after years of therapy, I am back to wearing waders again, though due to major trust issues, I am still not at the point where I feel comfortable doing so while in water. Or near glue. Or even horses.

Does this look odd? Yes, it does. But you know, at least they serve me quickly at the donut shop …



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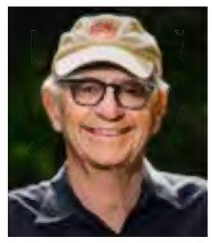

GREG J. ROE
Music Notes

WE, IN Ontario, have become accustomed to highways having their names or numbers changed. Right here in Haliburton County, a number of examples come to mind.

Some highways, however, are sacrosanct and Route 66 is one of these. Ironically, when I had the idea for this month's column I had no idea it was the 100th anniversary of Route 66's official opening. It winds 2448 miles from Chicago to Santa Monica, California.

It was Cyrus Avery who came up with the idea of a national highway that, as the song says, winds from Chicago to L.A more than two thousand miles all the way and thus encourage economic growth. By 1926, when the highway was deemed official, only 800 miles had been paved. The remainder was dirt, gravel, brick or just wooden planks. By 1937, however, 'America's Main Street' was fully paved, and on its way to becoming an institution.

The song, *Get Your Kicks on Route 66*, was written by Bobby Troup, a Pennsylvania native who moved to L. A. and on his way, wrote a song about the towns that he passed through. He met Nat King Cole shortly after arriving in Los Angeles. Cole recorded the song in 1946 and it was a huge success.

My first exposure to the song as a preteen was through a Nat King Cole album that my parents owned entitled *Unforgettable*, and it was ... a great album and a great version of *Route 66*. As a teenager when I bought the very first Rolling Stones album, I was amazed to hear their cover of *Route 66* ... long live rock 'n' roll!

Back in Cole's day, the song became the ultimate 'road song' and even influenced Jack Kerouac in his writing of *On The Road, the Bible of the 'beat generation'*. The song also inspired the sixties television series, *Route 66* starring George Maharis and Martin Milner.

Route 66 has been recorded by over 60 different artists representing all musical styles from Nat King Cole, the Rolling Stones, Depeche Mode, the Manhattan Transfer and Buckwheat Zydeco and more to come I'm sure.

The highway was officially closed on October 13, 1984 with the opening of I-40. Even today, however, Route 66 Preservation Societies exist in many of the small towns along its route. So, "If you ever plan to motor west," grab a copy of *On The Road*, a version of the tune and head out on the highway.

Although you may want to wait until the current political situation improves!!

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Be bold and ask the questions

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

I DID a tour of a small village this week and talked about the history. I had all my notes prepared and tried to offer interesting past stories of different buildings. I used words like harness maker and blacksmith, census and dry goods. Finally, one brave Girl Guide put up her hand and told me that she was not understanding all the words I was using.

Then the hands went up pretty fast asking for definitions of all the above terms. It was such a good reminder that I had not checked in to make sure there was an understanding, I had not thought about the terms that were so familiar to me, and would not have the same part in the lives of the young girls. I was so thankful that the first spoke up and what courage it must have taken. So, I guess my thoughts are twofold.

First lets all take a lesson in bravery and be bold, ask questions, interrupt, get clarity, make sure we fully understand what we are hearing or doing. And secondly, for those of us explaining or presenting things, let's take two big steps to look carefully at our words, acronyms, context and rework wherever we can to present a fuller picture that everyone can understand.

It is important that in a role of leading or teaching we leave nothing to chance, there may not be a bold enough person in every crowd to slow us down and get clarity for the group.

If we have the privilege of leading others it comes with the responsibility to make sure everyone in the group knows all the possible definitions. A blacksmith shop is not that interesting until you know what a blacksmith is.

CountyLife

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Flowers

THE OTHER day, I was driving through town, on what was the millionth grey day of the year (okay, perhaps my pre-teen kids' flair for exaggeration is rubbing off on me, but still, you get the point).

Grey lakes. Grey clouds. Grey trees. If I didn't have the lime green numbers on my dashboard telling me the time, I never would have known. These grey days have a way of melting together from morning to night, each one looking more and more like the last.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

But then I saw it. A pop of colour, winding around the edge of Head Lake.

Tulips. And yes, it's still slightly too early for our spring friends to be popping up naturally in our neck of the woods.

But these tulips were different. They were nestled into the backpack of a woman wandering around the lake; their buttery yellow petals curled into the green sleeping bags of leaves, and bundled into waxy cellophane.

These tulips were the chosen ones; carefully selected from bunches of dripping flowers at our local grocery store, to be propped in a vase in an effort to bring some sunshine indoors.

It got me thinking about flowers.

It's a tough economy. Grocery prices have skyrocketed, gas prices inflated, the cost of living through the roof.

That's why, when I see someone has built it into their already tightened budget to buy flowers, it brings me joy.

The act of giving flowers can be dated back to Ancient Egypt. There are depictions in hieroglyphs carved into the pyramids of flowers abounding tombs, ceremonies, and celebrations. There are also records of flowers in Ancient Greece and Rome, often used for beauty, scent, and practical medicine.

Some of my favourite bouquets I have received are from tiny fingers; the stems of dandelions creased and cracked from little palms holding them with such gusto, such love; eager to share their findings. Each and every one of those bouquets have been placed in a mason jar by the sink, dutifully maintained until the last leaf wilts from fatigue.

When someone buys flowers, I am often captivated. Where are they going? Who are they for? What is the reason? I've watched older men purchase lilies and carnations; asking the cashier if they can be wrapped in silky white paper to transport them to their recipient.

I have seen younger women pick through baby's breath and orange gerber daisies to build a bouquet at home. I listen when young kids pass the flowers at the store; one particular little girl asking her mom to stop so she could smell each and every one of them.

They serve no purpose in this world, other than to bring joy. They are at weddings and funerals, birthdays and holidays. The power of the flower to bring a little sunshine indoors.

So on those particularly grey days - Grey lake. Grey clouds. Grey trees - might I suggest splurging a little bit, and buying yourself some flowers.

A little pop of colour can go a long way.

Top 10 signs you are missing spring too much

I THINK we can all agree that spring seems to be a bit late now. As a result, some of us might be missing it too much. The clues are subtle, but obvious to the trained eye. Here are the top 10 signs you might be missing spring a bit too much.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. You are now at the longing to see a black fly stage.
2. You have completed detailed plans about mowing the lawn.
3. You started to spray paint last year's leaves green and tape them onto trees.
4. You can hardly wait for a bear encounter.
5. You have practiced wearing shorts, just in case it happens.
6. You have spent far too much time bragging about your daffodil.
7. You plan on giving your loved one a bouquet of dandelions.
8. You have now taken to creating mosquito habitat.
9. Every morning, you listen intently for the sound of no snow.
10. You now believe the onset of spring is a feeling and not an actual seasonal event.

Flight

Cornflower-coloured butterfly, small as a thumbnail,
fluttering through Air over pebbles
and stones that speckle the ground, grazing the tips
of tall grasses that grow along the edge of the trail, my
eyes following the flight of the butterfly,
the first one I see this spring, its wings flitting past
bushes, their ashen branches beginning to bud,
layers of tiny green leaves unfurling their way into
the world, breeze brushing their newborn flesh,
the fleck of blue butterfly zig-zagging from bush to
bush, serenaded by birdsong that trickles through Air,
I stare at its wings, wondering whether the path of
its flight is guided by sight or instinct, the way my feet
sometimes know which way to go before my eyes,
something guiding me from deeper inside,
my lungs exhaling a stream of Breath, merging with
breeze, as I let the blue butterfly lead me along the
trail, over the branches of a felled tree,
its trunk laying across the trail, the broken bits
and pieces of the tree, strewn across the ground,
my eyes drinking in the carnage, my feet
pausing on the trail, watching the butterfly hover
over a broken branch,
fluttering low through Air over the trunk of the dead
tree, over pieces of rotting bark and branches that
won't be budding this spring,
I graze my fingers along a piece of the trunk,
grasping at branches and broken bits that I lay on the
side of the trail, the tree's trunk to heavy for my hands
to move, wondering how long the broken tree has
been here, toppled by Wind or storm, my eyes losing
sight of the fleck of blue butterfly, blurring into the
pillars of birches and pines fringing the trail,
the birches budding leaves greening Air,
as I stare up past them into Sky,
and the smudge of Sun peeping through layers of
cloud, my eyes searching for the
pale blue petals of the butterfly's wings,
colouring spring with its journey through Air,
I step over the trunk of the fallen tree, hearing the
murmur of a forest stream, my feet and ears leading
me closer to the source of the sound,
my eyes glancing down at the pebbles and
stones littering the trail, a pebble catching my eye,
that I pluck up from the ground
and place in the palm of my hand, not much larger
than the fleck of blue butterfly, the pebble formed in
the shape of a misshapen Heart,
that I knead with my fingers like a worry bead,
before I place it back in my pocket as a talisman,
or maybe just to remind me to soften my winter
hardened Heart, sometimes,
to let the breezes of spring sweep through
its chambers , to scour it free of lingering debris,
like old leaves littering the fringes of the trail,
the murmur of water growing louder,
as my feet lead me closer towards the stream,
clambering down rocks.
Towards the source of the sound that soaks my ears,
water gurgling over rocks,
trickling between the trees, flutters of spring tickling
my weather weary Soul as I spot the pale
blue butterfly flitting through Air,
over moss-covered rocks, its wings,
the colour of wildflowers growing free,
I watch as it zig-zags between the trees, its wings
skimming the spears of unfurling leaves.

Sylvie Kalenda

Students go beyond the limit

Students from HHSS showcased their works of art at the opening of Limitless, this year's HHSS Student Art exhibition. The exhibition will be on display until June 18. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Unwelcome odour leads to costs for council

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

An unpleasant odour has put business on pause for Haliburton's branch of Life Labs. The facility is housed in the Haliburton Highlands Health Centre, which also hosts Hill Chiropractic and Physiotherapy, Haliburton Vision Care Centre, Haliburton Midwives, and the Family Health Team.

Dysart staff were directed to retain Pinchin Ltd. to complete a ventilation performance review of the facility, to try to get to the root of the odour.

During the April 28 regular meeting of Dysart council, the findings of the report were shared publicly. It was noted that a recent assessment identified elevated carbon dioxide (CO2) and total volatile organic compound (TVOC) concentrations within the facility.

"Based on a review of the existing HVAC systems, available documentation, and site observations, the facility appears to be experiencing building-wide reduced ventilation effectiveness, which is likely contributing to the elevated CO2 and TVOC concentrations observed throughout the building," reads the Pinchin report to council.

Key findings of the report direct Dysart staff to conduct a comprehensive air audit review to verify and optimize supply air and outdoor air delivery throughout the facility, improve maintenance practices, including filter inspection and replacement frequency, adjust control strategies to support continuous or scheduled fan operation during occupied periods, and evaluate the need for additional outdoor air systems, including dedicated heat recovery ventilators or a dedicated outdoor air system, particularly for areas currently underserved or lacking direct ventilation.

The needs for the building comes with a price tag of $23,913.60, plus an additional $2,000 for electrical costs. This is an unbudgeted expenditure.

Life Labs penned a letter to Dysart staff, requesting a response in ten days, specifying the direction to which the building will be headed. Andrea Mueller, the manager of programs and events, who presented the report in the absence of Andrew Wilbee, the director of Parks and Recreation, noted that Life Labs had brought in an external company to run tests, who came back with the same results as Pinchin.

"It'll be costly," said Councillor Pat Casey, "but I think it's a necessity." Mayor Murray Fearrey agreed. He was weary about waiting any extra time to solidify quotes, and instead suggested moving ahead in a prompt manner to mitigate additional wait times for the community.

CAO Tamara Wilbee shared that staff would release a scope of work to receive comments and feedback on what needs to be completed. Casey shared that the unbudgeted expenditure would be "money well spent," noting that it would solve the air problem, but not necessarily the odour immediately.

Councillor Nancy Wood-Roberts inquired about whether Life Labs could use another location while their current space is undergoing these challenges. She suggested a trailer, or perhaps a room at the local Legion. Wilbee shared that there would be costs associated with renovating an additional space. "So I don't think that's their ideal situation," she said. Council was in support of setting up a trailer if the close date is prolonged.

Council approved moving forward with the unbudgeted expenditure, with further updates available as the process moves forward. Life Labs remains closed as of the time of press.

Senior games

Are you 55 or older? Do you play euchre, cribbage, golf, pickleball, shuffleboard, tennis, or just love to walk? Enjoy friendly competition? Meet new friends?

If you answer yes to these questions, consider joining the Ontario Senior Games Association and register to compete in the games.

For more information, go to our website district11.osga55plus.ca. Below is a chart of upcoming events and information to register.

Submitted

OSGA District 11 Summer Games 2026

Event	Date	Time	Location	Convenor
5 PIN BOWLING:	Tuesday, May 26th	1:00pm	Minden Fast Lane Bowling	Denice Harrison 780-779-8777
BID EUCHRE:	Friday, May 1st	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth Robertson 705-641-9363
	District Final: Friday, May 15th	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth Robertson 705-641-9363
CRIBBAGE:	Thursday, May 28th	1:00pm	Kinmount Legion	Donna Teravainen 613-339-9960
	Monday, May 25th	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Barb Duce 705-641-8215
	District Final: Thursday, June 11th	1:00pm	Kinmount Legion	Donna Teravainen 613-339-9960
DARTS:	Saturday, May 16th	10:00am	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Jackie and Peter Bussecker 705-350-0059
EUCHRE:	Monday, May 11th	1:00pm	Minden Curling Club	Pearl Cowen 705-286-3473 Donna Darby 519-766-2761
	Thursday, May 14th	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth Robertson 705-641-9363
	District Final: Friday, May 29th	1:00pm	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth Robertson 705-641-9363
GOLF:	Wednesday, June 3rd **Rain Date:** Tuesday, June 16th	8:30am	Blairhampton Golf Course, Minden	Kathy Phillips 705-935-0358
PICKLEBALL:	Tuesday, June 9th	9:00am	SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena, Minden	Jennifer Coates 705-749-3787
SHUFFLEBOARD:	Thursday, June 4th	10:00am	Gravenhurst Seniors Centre	Ruth and Lorne Robertson 705-645-8688
TENNIS:	Tuesday, June 16th **Rain Date:** Thursday, June 18th	8:00am	Kerr Park, Bracebridge	Judy Keith 604-967-3900
WALKING:	Friday, May 29th **Rain Date:** Friday, June 5th	9:00am	Head Lake Park, Haliburton	Jane Symons 705-286-3003 Sharon Ferris 416-998-2564

Friday, May 22nd at 2pm
Join the Haliburton County Master Gardeners for the
Grand Opening
of the Minden Boardwalk Interpretive Tour
• Official Ribbon Cutting
• Free Native Plant Giveaway
• Explore New Signage: Discover wetland ecology, Indigenous plant uses, and flood protection.
Where: Boardwalk Trailhead (behind the Minden Library), 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden
Stepping into Nature
Haliburton County Master Gardeners
www.HaliburtonMasterGardener.ca

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m., Card night 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5 p.m.
2nd Sunday of the month
Ladies Auxiliary - 11 a.m.
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting.7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
Last Sunday of the month - All you can eat breakfast
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices.
Email: 441RCL@gmail.com Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: Open 7 to 10 p.m. May 18, 25 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Special Events Only - May 19, 26 Veteran's and Seniors Exercise Club 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Open 2 to 10 p.m.
May 13, 20, 27 Darts $5/player 2 p.m. Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10. 5 to 6:30 p.m. Open Cribbage 6:30 p.m. – No need to pre-register
Thursday: Open 2 to 6 p.m. - May 14, 28 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday: Open 2 to 11 p.m. -
May 15, 29 Fish & Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20. 5 to 8 p.m.
22 Wings and Jam Session $15/lb. 5 to 8 p.m.
22 Community Care 55+ Lunch $20. 12 p.m.
Saturday: Open 2 to 7 p.m. - May 16 Lou Moody Fishing Derby. Weigh in 3 to 5 p.m.,
16 Karaoke 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.,
23 Honours and Awards 11 a.m.
30 Nacho Average Trivia. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. Game Begins at 7pm Sharp. $5/Player
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-222

Ontario needs a climate plan presentation

Given the repeated flooding in Minden, ice and wind storms that we have experienced in our County over the past few years, it's clear that Ontario needs a climate plan. On May 1, 2026, the CO2 level in the atmosphere was 433.95 ppm. 350 ppm is considered ideal to avoid major climate tipping points.

David Robertson from Seniors for Climate Action Now! will give a presentation titled "Ontario Needs a Climate Plan" for Environment Haliburton via zoom on Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m. Mr Robertson has been an activist for over half a century.

Before retirement, his career included working for the Canadian Auto Workers union, the NDP at Queen's Park and with the Ontario Public Interest Research Group. He is a founding member of Seniors for Climate Action Now!.

Register in advance for this important talk at www.environmenthaliburton.org.

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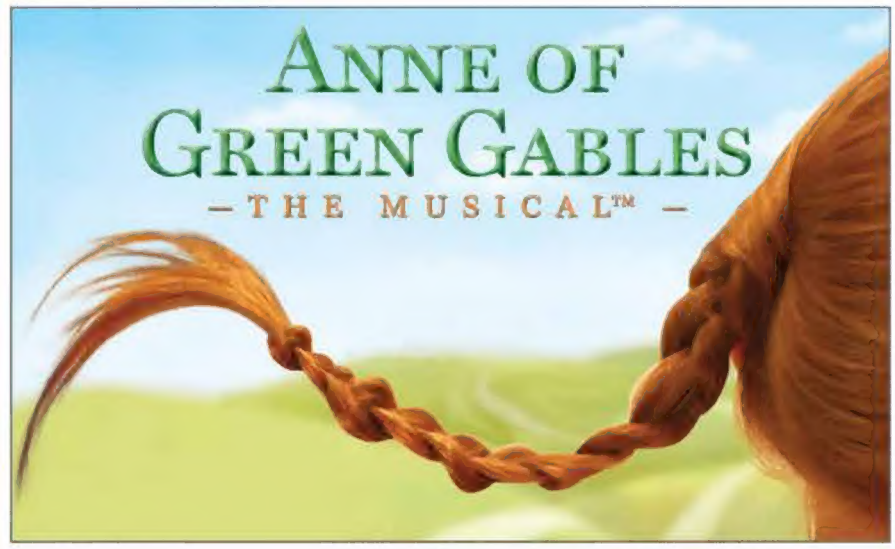
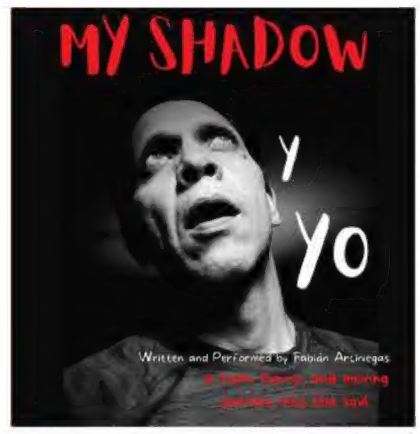


June 29 - July 8

July 13 - 20

July 27 - 31



July 21 - 23

August 2 - 6

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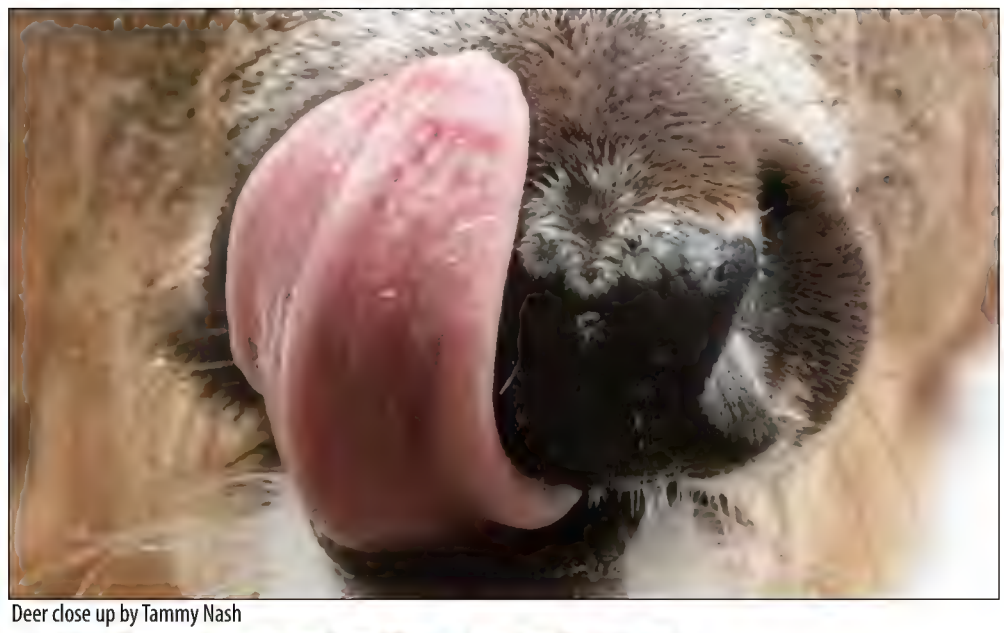
Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Dahl Forest by Linda Tatler



Deer close up by Tammy Nash

Fungus by Linda Tatler

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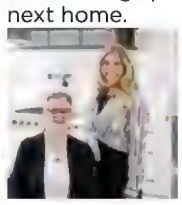

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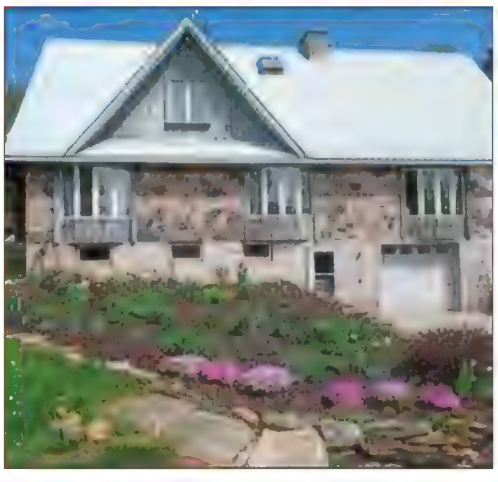

- Custom-built home on 60+ acres in Algonquin Highlands
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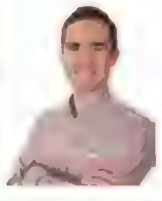

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Welcome to Hunter Creek Estates a friendly 50+ community just a short drive to Minden. This 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home. The layout features a spacious primary bedroom with wall-to-wall closet space. The home sits on a leasehold property, making it an affordable option in a desirable location. Residents of Hunter Creek Estates enjoy the benefits of community living, including road maintenance and garbage pickup. The home does require some upgrading.

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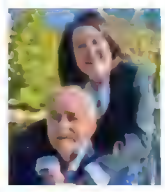

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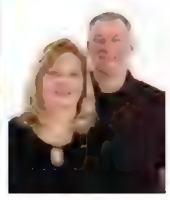

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Nature in your backyard

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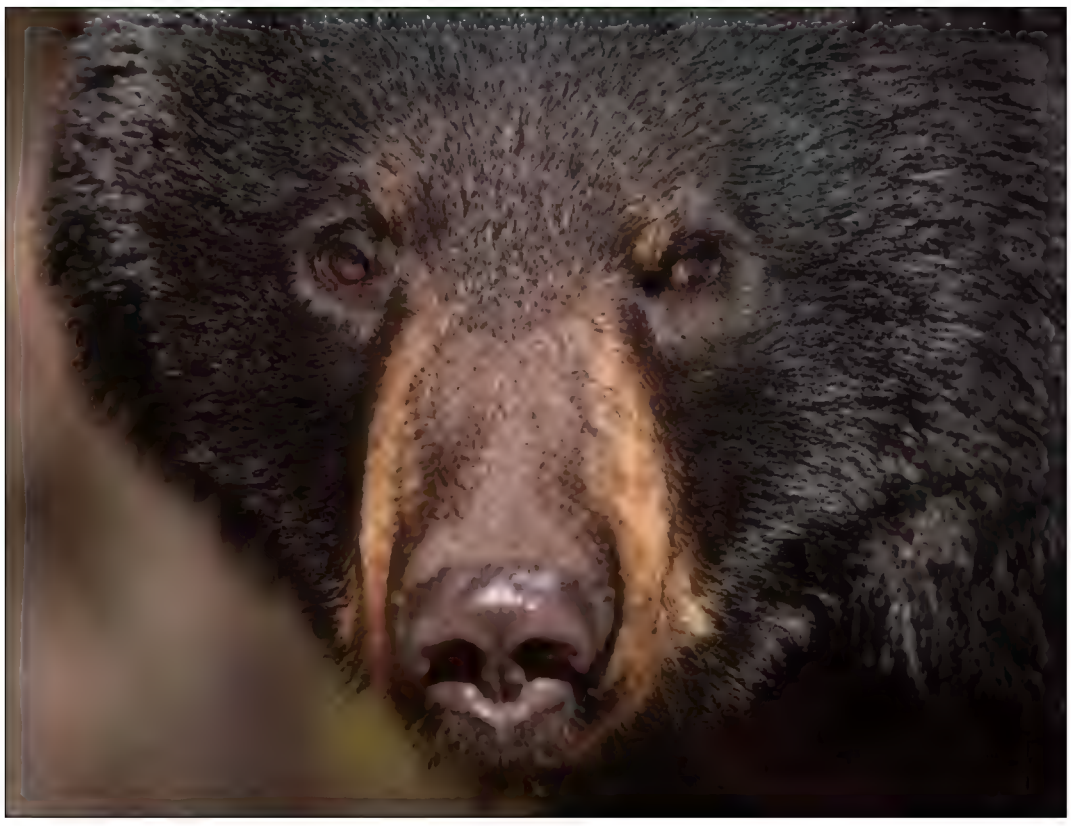
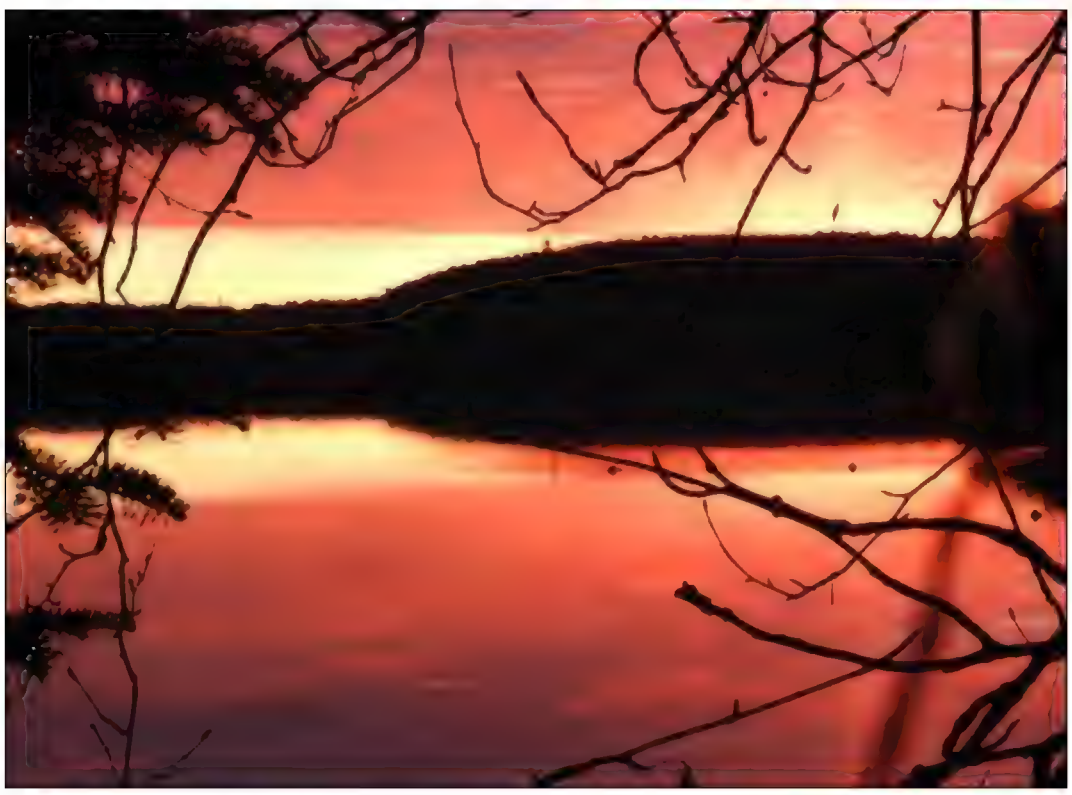


Bear in the sun by tammy nash

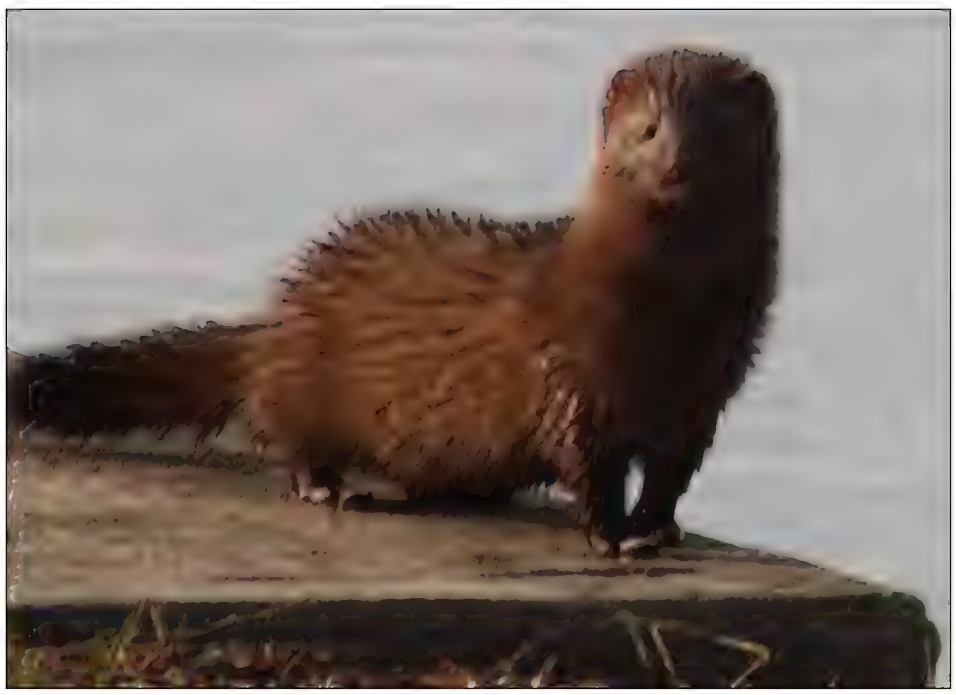
Blue Jay by Rob Barnes

Four turtiles by Jill Moulton

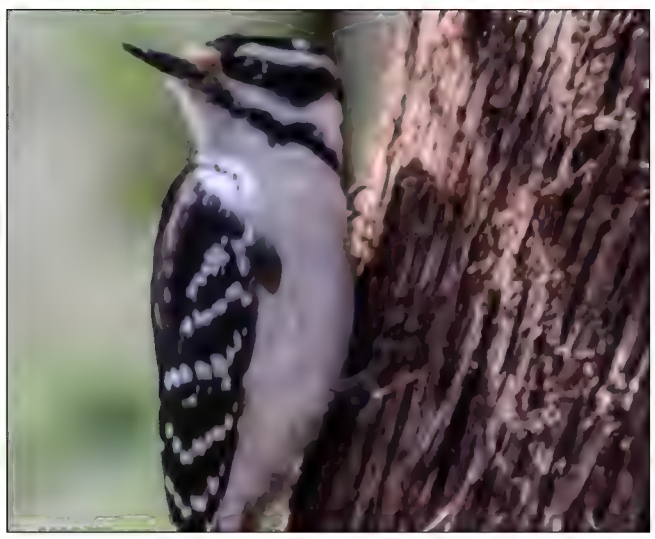


Haliburton Lake sunrise by Randy Barber

Goosander by Rob Barnes



Mink by Rob Barnes



Woodpecker by Jill Moulton

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Composting

Composting is a simple way to reduce the amount of waste you dispose of.

Dysart sells two composting units: Composters ($57 flat fee), and Digesters ($124 flat fee), that can be purchased at the Haliburton Landfill, 222 Industrial Park Road, Haliburton, during regular operating hours.

Composter

Composters use air, moisture and the layering of different materials to aid decomposition and create nutrient rich soil as a finished product.

50% "green" materials

- Raw fruit and vegetables
- Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags
- Egg shells
- Fresh (green) yard clippings, plants, leaves

50% "brown" materials

- Dry leaves and plants
- Dry sticks (broken up)
- Hair and fur

Add materials, alternating between "green" and "brown" layers.

Turn the pile with a shovel to add air.

The pile should be as damp as a wrung-out sponge.

Digester

Digesters promote decomposition without air. Micro-organisms breakdown organic waste and it leaches into the ground, feeding plants that surround it. Digesters are considered more bear-proof.

- Cooked food
- Baked goods
- Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags
- Dairy
- Eggs and egg shells
- Green yard clippings, plants, leaves
- Meat and bones
- Raw fruit and vegetables

Place the digester over a 1 meter (3 foot) hole. Install the digester and then start adding kitchen waste.

Limit meat/bone/fish for the first four to six weeks until the digester is established.

Digesters do NOT produce compost/humus.

Municipality of Dysart et al

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App Store | Google Play

www.dysartetal.ca
705-457-1740

Get The Word Out

Let people know about your event. Send it in to our FREE community events listing in the Haliburton Echo, Minden Times and County Life. Email the basics to: classifieds@haliburtonpress.com.

First Responders Day

For the fourth year on First Responders Day, members of Haliburton County Paramedic Service, municipal fire departments, and the Haliburton Highlands Ontario Provincial Police came together collectively to welcome the public to a Haliburton County Community Open House to learn more about the critical role both professional and volunteer emergency responders have in keeping our communities safe. /Submitted by the County of Haliburton

/TIM YANO, staff photographer

/EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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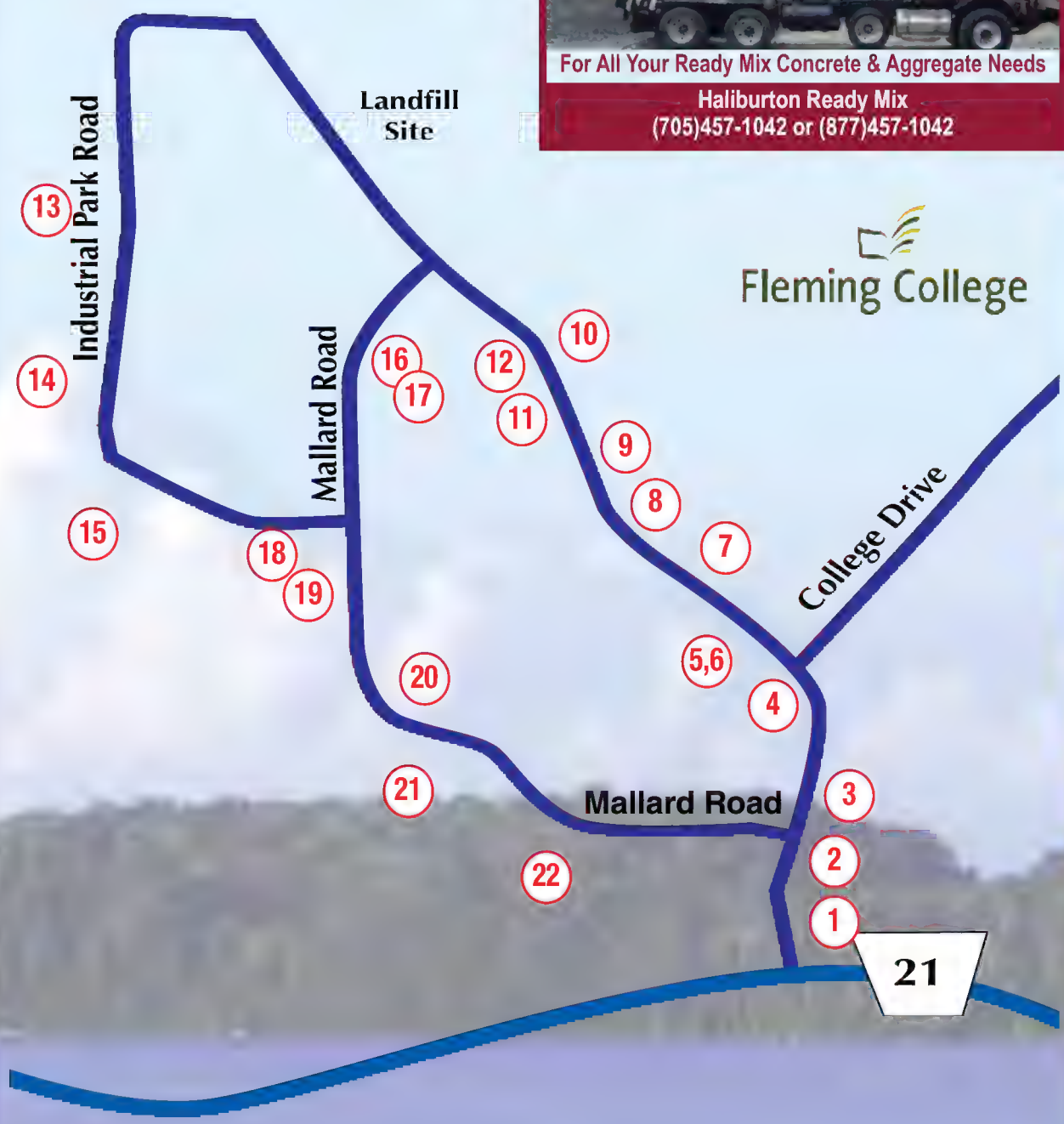

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Kinmount Lions Club president J.C. Lagrange presented Guy Scott, right, with the Kinmount Citizen of the Year award during the opening day of the 2017 Kinmount Fair. /FILE

Mr. Kinmount leaves his legacy

THOMAS SMITH
County Life Staff

I only had the opportunity to learn from Guy Scott a handful of times throughout my career as a journalist.

Yet every time I spoke with him, I learned something new.

When I had a question about local history, Guy was the first person I'd contact.

At his core, Scott was a lover of local history and sharing it with others.

After graduating from Carleton University with a B.A. in History, then a B. Ed. from the University of Ottawa, Scott realized that his greatest calling was the void of preserving local history.

The bug for publishing local history was caught after publishing "Memories of Somerville Township", followed by his first full book *The History of Kinmount: A Community on the Fringe.*

Fittingly, this book teaches us that "for order's sake, there has to be a beginning and an end."

I first learned of Guy Scott through research using the Maryboro Lodge Museum.

Glenn Walker, longtime member of the Maryboro Lodge Museum says that Scott first began contributing to the museum's website during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Guy contributed very extensively to our website," said Glenn Walker, member of the Maryboro Lodge Museum, "It wouldn't be the same without him."

Typical of Scott, Walker had met him when he gave a tour of an abandoned mine in Irondale. "It soon became apparent what a special person he was," writes Walker, in a memoriam published to his website. "He had an understanding of the Kinmount region, past and present, that I doubt anyone will ever match."

Walker recalls Scott as someone that could be known wherever he went, a local legend.

Beyond a prolific writer of local history, Scott was

see page 21

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from page 20

a valued teacher to kids at Fenelon Falls High School. With the announcement of his passing, dozens of comments throughout Facebook share how he sparked a kid's imagination and love for learning about their own roots.

There are few community groups that Scott did not have a hand in shaping or leading at some point.

Scott's final hurrah in the field of history is his contributions to the preservation of history of the Ottawa-Huron Tract. This expanse of land stretches from Algonquin Park to Hastings County. Scott was the founding director of the Ottawa Huron Tract Historical Association. The project continues to capture the history of the colonization of the area sharing tales of roads, rails, and those that inhabited it. The project and its information can be accessed through heritagestories.ca.

As the Editor for the *Kinmount Gazette*, Scott was crucial in getting the paper off the ground for Kinmount's 150th anniversary celebration. Remaining an editor for the rest of his life, the Gazette provides a valued voice for what is happening in the village of Kinmount and shares local history on a weekly basis, just as Scott intended.

Perhaps Scott's greatest pride in life was the Kinmount Fair.

Like many kids who grew up visiting the Kinmount Fair, it was Scott's voice that announced the parade and dog shows.

Not just its voice, Scott served on the executive board of the Kinmount Fair for decades, like many family members before him.

Tracey Dettman knew Scott her entire life. As a close family friend, her father grew up with Guy.

Later in life, Dettman volunteered with the Kinmount Fair, as Scott grew in rank.

Serving as secretary, treasurer, then president, Scott benefitted from the help of Dettman and the rest of the board of directors to keep the tradition of Kinmount Fair alive.

At one time, Scott was even the president of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies.

"Scott was actively involved with the fair up to his passing," said Dettman. "I was really pleased he could be the president at the 150th anniversary celebration."

Scott made the Kinmount Fair what is known as today. He embodied the fair entirely and published several books on the topic. Cited several times by history students, Scott has supported research of rural pageantry more than anyone I know.

The 150th anniversary celebration of the Kinmount Fair was special, with an extra night of celebrating, cupcakes, special heritage events, and welcoming past ambassadors.

As Scott wrote, fairs in Ontario represent not only agriculture, but the rural lifestyle. The Kinmount Fair meant everything to Scott, and as its voice, his passing leaves some identity with it.

"We are going to say goodbye to him at the fairgrounds," said Dettman.

Like his father before him, Scott will have a celebration of life at the Kinmount Fairgrounds Arena.

His celebration will be taking place on May 9 with visitation at 12 p.m. and a ceremony at 1:30 p.m. His family asks visitors to bring their favourite memory of Guy with a memorial box present to collect the stories.

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Moving Yard Sale. Saturday **May 16 and Sunday May 17. 9am-4pm.** 4177 Kennisis Lake Road., Haliburton. Furniture, tools, household, antiques, fishing boat, trailer, mens bike, bike racks, wedding, chicken items.

YARD SALE. **Saturday May 16, 8-12**, multiple houses Windover Drive Minden. Including antiques, garden furniture, children's toys and more.

Retired Builder Sale. Selling contents of garage and all tools. Saws, sliding miter saw, concrete cutoff saw, general commercial table saw, finishing framing nail guns, assorted drills electrical and battery, HD electrical chipper of concrete, hunting equipment, multi-family household sale of all kinds of things. Shelves of Christmas, Easter, and fall ornaments, craft supplies, homemade hats, baby blankets and scarves, and 10 like-new office chairs. 4003 Deep Bay Rd, Minden. 8-4. **Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17.**

Garage/Street Sale. Saturday May 16. 9 am - 3pm. Mistivale Rd. & Hyacinth, Minden. Follow the Pink and White Signs.

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Community Events

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The Minden Health Care Auxiliary
"End of Season" Sale
When: Two Fridays May 15
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: In the Gift Shop located just outside the Long Term Care Home 6 McPherson St. Minden
Sale will include clothes, purses, jewellery and more! Come on in, pick up a bargain and check out our new Spring Collection.

Don Smith Memorial Bird Walk
Land Trust Discovery Days
When: Saturday, May 16, 7 a.m. (rain date Sunday, May 17)
Where: Haliburton Rail Trail
Join bird experts Ed and Tamara Poropat to discover which birds are returning and can be seen and/or heard along the rail trail. Bring your binoculars or camera. Meet at the rail trail parking area 7286 Gelert Road, opposite high school playing field. Dress for the weather and possibly for bugs. Pre-registration required at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca. Contact 705-457-3700. Partially funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Leader: Ed and Tamara Poropat. Admission by donation

Minden & District Horticultural Society
Annual Plant Sale
When: May 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: 63 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden
Rain or Shine

Haliburton Lions' Walk For Dog Guides Garage Sale
When: May 16 at 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: 18 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton
Yard Sale, Book Sale, Plant Sale. Remember to bring your pop tabs for puppies! Website: haliburtonlegion.com

Bake Sale with Pies
When: May 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Minden
Everyone welcome. Bring a cooler bag for frozen pies.

Haliburton County Snowmobile Association Annual General Meeting
When: Sunday, May 24 at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Stanhope Firefighters Community Hall, 1095 Northshore Rd, Algonquin Highlands
A recap of a great winter. We'll honour our volunteers and share our plans for the coming season. Everyone is welcome. info@hcsa.ca

Recurring events

Duplicate Bridge - Please arrange for a partner.
When: Wednesdays at 12:45 at Park Lane Apartments. Fridays at 12:45 at Haliburton Legion, Schofield Room.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street

Monthly Community Breakfast
When: Fourth Saturday of Every Month from 9 to 11 a.m.
Where: Fellowship Room, Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. Haliburton
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Lakeside Church Service
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When: 1st 3rd Tuesday of the month - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
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Lack of storage responsible for high water

by Jerry Grozelle

Mother Nature is responsible for the Gul River spilling over its banks.

All of the lakes in the headwaters of the Gull River watershed are at, or slightly above, capacity, says Blaine Trumbley, a water control technician with the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW).

"It's a critical time," Trumbley said. "The lakes are brim full and we have to pass the water on down the system."

With the lakes at capacity, and the ground saturated from the late thaw and recent rain, there is no storage available in the Gull River system. Trumbley said the high water levels that are being experienced in Minden and other areas along the Gull River are unavoidable.

Trumbley compared the water situation in the lakes upstream of Minden to pouring a pail of water into a coffee cup. There is more water than the lakes can hold.

"It's a bit of a juggling act," Trumbley said. "We would rather cause people an inconvenience now than risk flooding them out later. We just send as much through as is prudent."

Trumbley said that TSW officials keep an eye on the weather reports. But the forecasts aren't detailed enough to predict the effect on water levels. "They never predict the amount of rain or the intensity," he said.

Part of the reason for the unusually high water levels in Minden is the fact that 45 millimetres of rain fell over a 48 hour period about 10 days ago.

"As soon as we start to see an improvement, we'll cut the water flow back," Trumbley said.

If the weather co-operates, Trumbley said it will be the middle of this week before the level of the river starts to drop.

Keith and Judy Hardy, who live on McKnight Drive in Minden, must drive or walk through about 10 inches of water to get to their home. Keith said he spoke with Mac Ellis of the TSW in Haliburton this past Friday and he was told that stop logs have been added at a couple of dams upstream from Minden, which will cause some restriction of flow. But everything hinges on the weather. More rain will aggravate the situation.

Hardy said he thought the high water last year was bad when it encroached onto part of his circular driveway.

"I never expected to be surrounded by water," he said. "I don't think we can take much more.. All we can do is wait it out and hope and pray for sunshine."

Judy Hardy stands on one of the driveway entrances to her home. The fence, seen peeking above the water, marks the edge of the circular driveway at the front of her McKnight Drive home. Water from the Gull River has completely surrounded her property.

Riverside residents feel not enough is being done about the high water

While mother Nature is being blamed for the high water in Minden, residents along the river aren't very pleased with the explanation. With yards flooded, some houses surrounded by the rising water, roads flooded and wet basements being reported all along the Gull River in Minden, some residents are wondering if the cause cannot be traced to the management of the watershed.

"It was what I would call a normal spring," said Chris Dollo, a riverside resident who has seem much of her back yard disappear under the rising water. "The melt seemed to be slow and we thought there was little to worry about, but this is ridiculous."

Dollo, who lives on Anson Street, said the authorities don't appear to be concerned about the problems they are creating for the waterfront residents.

"The high water is eroding portions of the bank along my shoreline," said Gloria Lemieux, a neighbour of Dollo's. As she stood in her back yard discussing the problem, the outflow from her sump pump kicked in several times spewing water across her dock and back into the river.

"The last time this happened it left a green slime all over the lawn. It wasn't very pleasant I'll tell you.

Another nearby neighbour Judy Hardy, is equally upset by the conditions. Her home on McKnight drive is dry, but the water backing up from the river has inundated her circular driveway, front yard and has completly surrounded her house. She and her husband Keith must either leave the property by car or don boots to wade through the water to get to dry pavement. They park the car on the one portion of lawn that is not covered by water.

Hardy has contacted the Trent Sebern Waterway authorities on a number of occasions to complain about the situation, but has received lit-

(more on page 3)

Additional cuts made to Health Unit

by Andrew Milne

The Haliburton, Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit announced layoffs last week. Five staff members spread through all of the unit's regional offices — including Haliburton — received notices which will take effect July 1.

The staff include clerical workers and dental educators.

Medical officer of health Dr. Alex Hukowich told *The Times* last week the layoffs are due principally to provincial cuts to the agency's budget, and in part to population shifts that change the funding levels, and service realignments that mean the unit no longer has the same mandate as it had previously.

The unit's budget was cut by ten per cent last year, and an additional one per cent this year. In addition, the provincial Ministry of Environment and Energy (MOEE), which has been responsible for sewage system inspections, and which has had a contract with the unit since the 70's to carry them out, is no longer responsible for those inspections — that duty now falls to municipalities.

Hukowich said cuts for the unit have been difficult, principally for two reasons: first, the unit has never had to deal with layoffs of any significant scale previously, and second, that by virtue of the unpredictable nature of public health and public health crises, it's difficult to gauge future resource needs.

"It will have an impact on the services," said Hukowich. "What the nature of that impact will be it's hard to say. Clearly we want to maintain as many of the services we offer — and there are some things that become more crucial than others — but unfortunately some of the things that are the most crucial are those most difficult to plan. In other words if there's an outbreak of something and we have to round up resources, then we'll have to drop everything else and concentrate on that for a while. If we're fortunate and we don't have those, or we're able to avoid them by doing better things in other ways, we may be able to minimize the impact the public notices. It becomes part of the ongoing difficulty of public health that a lot of what we do is not noticeable until it's gone."

The layoffs aren't the first the unit

(more on page 2)

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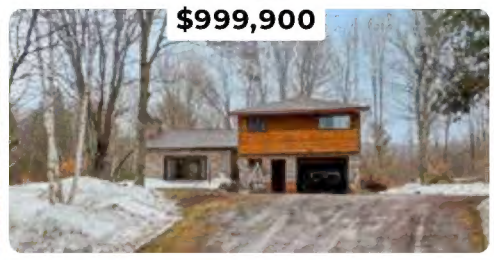
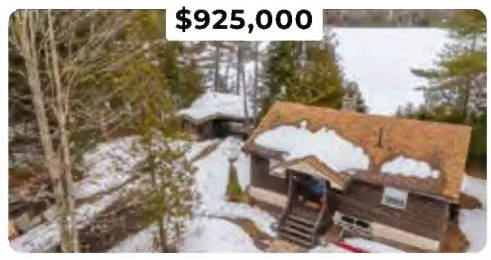


BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12953212

GOODERHAM LAKE
$925,000



BED 3+2 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X12954018

LONG LAKE, MINK RD
$749,900

BED 6 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13034386

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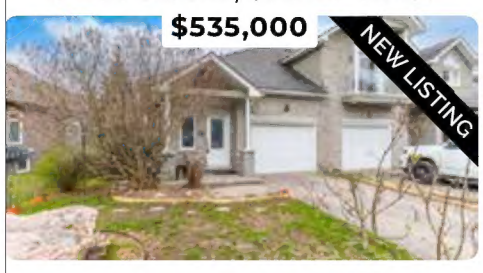

BED 2 | BATH 2 | COMING SOON TO REALTOR.CA

KUSHOG LAKE, HIGHWAY 35
$499,900

BED 4 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

OUTRAM RD, WILBERFORCE
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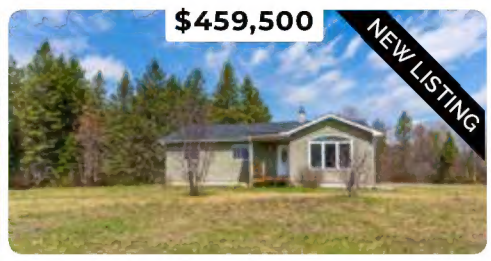
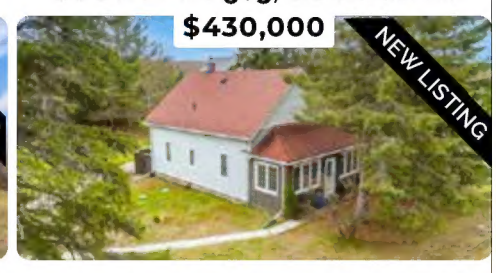


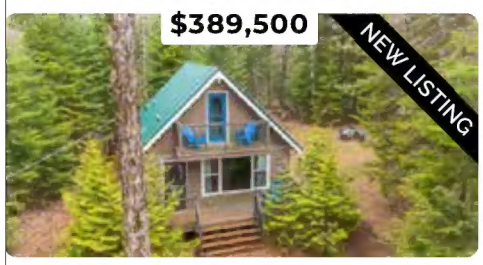
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13096532

COUNTY RD 503, GOODERHAM
$430,000 NEW LISTING



BED 2 | BATH 1 | COMING SOON TO REALTOR.CA

GLAMOR LAKE RD
$389,500 NEW LISTING



BED 2 | BATH 1 | COMING SOON TO REALTOR.CA

BASSHAUNT LAKE RD
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BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13005862

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EVERY SALE HAS A STORY

Our experience with Baumgartner Realty spans two chapters of our life, and they delivered beautifully both times.When circumstances required us to sell our cottage and relocate for family, Linda guided us through what could have been a stressful process with care and professionalism. She took the time to truly understand our situation and made the experience far smoother than we expected. Two years later, when we were ready to come back, we didn't hesitate to return to Baumgartner. Nicole took on the search for our new cottage and immediately impressed us with how thoughtfully she listened. Rather than flooding us with listings, she was selective and respectful of our time, and every property she brought to us was genuinely relevant to what we were looking for.

What stood out most during the purchase process was [their] approach to helping us evaluate each home. She asked the right questions, made sure she understood our priorities, and was careful to walk us through both the strengths and limitations of every property we considered. We never felt pressured, just well-informed and well-supported. We hope this is our forever home, but if we ever find ourselves buying again in the area, Baumgartner Realty will be our first call. This is a group that truly puts clients first.

-S. WALINSCHEK, GOOGLE REVIEW

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